

Geraldine Thomas, Professor of Molecular Pathology, Chernobyl Tissue Bank

Gerry Thomas is a serial biobanker. She established the CTB in 1998 that provides infrastructural support (both physical and ethical) in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia for thyroid cancer diagnosis and research into the molecular mechanisms that underlie the increase in thyroid cancer seen after the Chernobyl accident. The project provides a platform for a systems biology approach to exploring these mechanisms and supports tissue collection for international epidemiology studies. She has also developed two tissue banks in the UK that are embedded within the NHS. Gerry is the Scientific Director for both the Wales Cancer Bank, established in 2004. Since appointment to the Chair of Molecular Pathology at Imperial College, she has revamped the Imperial College Healthcare Tissue Bank to provide a flexible tissue resource to accommodate a varied portfolio of clinical studies. She sits on a number of advisory boards for tissue banking initiatives in Europe, and combines tissue banking with research interests in the molecular pathology of breast and thyroid cancer, and the effects of radiation exposure on health.